REMARKS

Claims 23, 25-31, 34 and 37-43 are pending. Claims 1-22, 24, 32, 33, 35 and 36 are cancelled.

Claims 23-30 and 34-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abramovici. Dependent claims 31 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Abramovici in view of Mansingh.

Independent claims 23 and 34 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed subject matter over the prior art. Claims 24, 35 and 36 have been cancelled.

In particular, claim 23, as amended, recites a processing device, comprising:

a reconfigurable circuit formed of a logic circuit, allowing change in function;

an internal state holding circuit receiving an output of said reconfigurable circuit;

a first path portion transmitting the output of said reconfigurable circuit received by said internal state holding circuit as an input to said reconfigurable circuit;

a setting portion supplying setting data for configuring an intended circuit in said reconfigurable circuit; and

a control portion controlling said setting portion such that a plurality of setting data are successively supplied to said reconfigurable circuit, so that an output of an intended circuit configured on said reconfigurable circuit in accordance with one setting data is supplied to an input of an intended circuit configured in accordance with setting data next to said one setting data through said first path portion;

a memory portion operating at a lower speed than said internal state holding circuit, storing an output of an intended circuit configured on said reconfigurable circuit in a prescribed area in accordance with one setting data; and

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a second path portion transmitting an output of the circuit configured on said reconfigurable circuit stored in said prescribed area of said memory portion as an input to a circuit configured in accordance with the setting data subsequent to said one setting data.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the claimed arrangement. For example, Abramovici does not disclose the arrangement including a first path portion from the internal state holding circuit and a second path portion from the memory portion, where the first path portion allows data transmission at a higher speed than the second path portion since the memory portion operates at a lower speed that the internal state holding circuit.

It is noted that the Examiner takes the position that Abramovici teaches a path through a page manager from one configured circuit to another, and a path which stores output and register values of one circuit (page) in the memory, and then, provides this information as the input to the next loaded circuit (page).

However, the paths of Abramovici are not configured and do not operate in the manner recited in claim 1.

Claim 34, as amended, recites a processing device, comprising:

a reconfigurable circuit allowing change in function and connection relation;

a setting portion storing setting data representing a divided unit forming a part of an intended circuit, and supplying the setting data to said reconfigurable circuit; and

a control portion controlling said setting portion such that a plurality of setting data are successively supplied according to a process flow to said reconfigurable circuit to configure said intended circuit; wherein

said reconfigurable circuit has at least one state holding circuit holding an internal state;

said reconfigurable circuit is divided, by an arrangement of said state holding circuit, into a plurality of stages of reconfigurable units; and

said control portion controls

at one time point,

said setting portion such that setting data of a divided unit configuring an intended circuit is supplied to a reconfigurable unit at a predetermined stage,

at a next time point,

said setting porting such that setting data of a next divided unit configuring said intended circuit is supplied to said reconfigurable unit at a stage next to said predetermined stage,

said setting portion such that setting data of a divided unit configuring a circuit different from said intended circuit is supplied to said reconfigurable unit of said predetermined stage;

said reconfigurable circuit including a path portion to input an output of the reconfigurable unit of the last stage to the reconfigurable unit of the first stage.

The prior art does not teach or suggest this arrangement. For example, Abramovici does not disclose that the control portion controls

-at one time point,

said setting portion such that setting data of a divided unit configuring an intended circuit is supplied to a reconfigurable unit at a predetermined stage, and

-at a next time point,

said setting porting such that setting data of a next divided unit configuring said intended circuit is supplied to said reconfigurable unit at a stage next to said predetermined stage,

said setting portion such that setting data of a divided unit configuring a circuit different from said intended circuit is supplied to said reconfigurable unit of said predetermined stage,

where the reconfigurable circuit includes a path portion to input an output of the reconfigurable unit of the last stage to the reconfigurable unit of the first stage.

It is noted that the Examiner considers that page manager of Abramovici to correspond to the claimed control portion. The Examiner takes the position that the reference discloses that the page manager holds active and inactive configurations (pages) for the configured circuits, supplying the configuration successively. The Examiner relies upon col. 3, lines 56-67, FIG. 4 and the abstract).

Considering the reference, Abramovici discloses storing inactive pages in a local memory until they are needed (col. 3, lines 61-63). However, the reference does not teach or suggest specific operations of the control portion recited in claim 34.

Anticipation, under 35 U.S.C. § 102, requires that each element of a claim in issue be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference. *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 760, 218 USPQ 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 9 USPQ2d 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989) *cert. denied*, 110 S.Ct. 154 (1989). The term "anticipation," in the sense of 35 U.S.C. 102, has acquired the accepted definition meaning "the disclosure in the prior art of a thing substantially identical with the claimed invention." *In re Schaumann*, 572 F.2d 312, 197 USPQ 5 (CCPA 1978).

As demonstrated above, Abramovici does not disclose the features recited in independent claims 23 and 34. Therefore, the claimed subject matter is clearly defined over Abramovici.

The dependent claims, 25-31 and 37-43 are defined over the prior art at least for the reasons presented above in connection with the respective independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, and in summary, claims 23, 25-31, 34 and 37-43 are considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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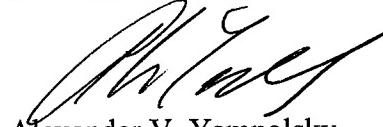
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